

Australian

U.F.O.

Bulletin

PUBLICATION OF THE VICTORIAN U.F.O. RESEARCH SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER - August 1971.

RETURN OF THE UFOS.

After many months of comparatively few sightings, the UFO traffic is on the increase. In fact, the number of sightings has now reached the point where officialdom thinks it necessary to start sweeping them under the carpet again.

As usual, the RAAF is demonstrating its inability to provide fool-proof 'explanations' by trying to explain the sighting of an experienced airline captain as "a natural gas burn-off". Thus the official hot air continues.

From the "Mirror", Sydney, N.S.W., 26 July, 1971 -

Seven Mystery Sightings - RAAF Report on UFOS.

Canberra, Monday - "The RAAF can give no possible explanation of two recent sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects.

At Richmond, N.S.W., on 14 May an extremely bright white-green-red object was observed for 34 minutes from 11.40 p.m.

And at Mildura, Victoria, on 3 June a man saw two small red lights and as he approached then saw an object as large as a semi-trailer. It rose vertically from the ground with a loud whistling noise and disappeared.

The RAAF has released details of official investigations into about 70 UFO sightings in Australia in the past two years.

A special report has given "possible causes" for most of the sightings.

But the Richmond and Mildura sightings and at least five others remain unexplained.

RAAF officials, apparently not wishing it to be understood that they believe in flying saucers, have labelled the report "unusual aerial sightings".

But it was confirmed today that the RAAF has already begun investigations into a recent spate of UFO sightings in the A.C.T.

In Queensland on 23 May this year, the captain of an aircraft reported what appeared to be a searchlight beam of great intensity 200 miles south of Townsville.

The RAAF could offer no explanation but said it could have been a natural gas burn-off.

Some of the most unusual UFO sightings were at Condobolin, N.S.W. on April 2, 9 and 12."

The following incident, together with many other sightings in and around the area, has resulted in applications for membership to this Society by people who were formerly sceptical and is an indication of how the interest of a town can be aroused by a sudden spate of UFO sightings in the vicinity.

From "The Macleay Argus", Kempsey, N.S.W., 1 June, 1971 -

Haulage Contractors Sight Another UFO.

"An unidentified white light, in the centre of a much larger light, was spotted at the weekend at Willi Willi west of Kempsey.

Two contract haulage operators, Mr. John Clarke and Mr. John Arnold, saw the strange light at 5.15 a.m. on Sunday as they were driving to work on the Carrai Plateau.

They described the object as 'a small white light, similar to a car headlight, with a great red flash behind it.'

The lights were low in the sky, but not low enough to be anything on the ground. It was dark at the time.

Mr. Clarke said the lights seemed to be moving in a jerking manner, but there was no noise.

The middle light did not move from the centre of the larger light.

He said: 'We had stopped on the road and I had turned the engine of the truck off.'

'Then this light caught my eye. From where we stood it looked about six inches wide but it was some way off. It was just like a car headlight with a great red flash behind it. The strange thing about it was the colour and the way it seemed to be jerking across the sky.'

The sightings of objects in the Kempsey area have taken on national and international significance.

An international magazine, Flying Saucer Review, has asked for details of all sightings in the valley.

The assistant editor of the magazine, Miss Eileen Buckle, said in a letter to the 'Argus' this week she believed Kempsey has become what the magazine called 'ufocal' because of the frequency of sightings in the area.

The Victorian U.F.O. Research Society said the sightings in this area of Australia were 'expected'.

In a letter to the 'Argus' the society said this followed the sighting of a large cigar shaped object over West Australia a few weeks ago.

The society said it was particularly interested in the report of sighting in this area of a large object followed by smaller ones.

On many occasions, large objects had been seen launching smaller ones, as an aircraft carrier launched planes.

These incidents have been reported all over the world.

The Victorian society had passed the Kempsey material to several scientists who are working on U.F.O. research.

REPORTS MOUNT.

Since the beginning of April, there have been more than 20 reports of people sighting unidentified objects over Kempsey and the Macleay valley.

They have been reported at Greenhill, over Collombatti, Willi Willi, Crescent Head, Temagog, South West Rocks and Kempsey itself.

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DR. JAMES E. McDONALD DIES.

The Society was shocked and grieved to learn of the sudden and untimely death of Dr. James E. McDonald on 13th June 1971 in Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.

Dr. McDonald, who was 51, was Professor of Meteorology at the University of Arizona and a fearless and outspoken opponent of official policies on UFOs.

Dr. McDonald visited Australia in 1967 and stayed in Melbourne for approximately two weeks, interviewing local witnesses and addressing public meetings.

He leaves a wife and six children.

The Society has lost a good friend and UFO research a brilliant and indefatigable researcher.

BALL LIGHTNING MAY BE NUCLEAR REACTOR.

The following article is taken from January 1971 'SKYLOOK', Box 129, Stover, Mo., 65078, U.S.A.

The mysterious and startling phenomenon of ball lightning may actually be a natural nuclear reactor in operation, three Colorado scientists suggest in the current issue of "Nature" magazine.

Ball lightning is a highly luminous globe appearing in areas of considerable electrical activity, as in storms. Many instances have been recorded showing that it possesses relatively enormous energy. Yet it does not explode. Its sustained, rather than explosive, release of power is evidenced by many cases where it shattered wooden logs, cut metal cables and did other damage possible only from a surprising amount of continued power.

Previous theories to account for the huge but relatively slow energy release and for the behaviour of ball lightning are found wanting. These include the idea that ball lightning might be a sphere of ionized air or plasma.

The scientists suggest that, if tornadoes or intense thunderstorms create a sufficiently high concentration of isotopes of oxygen (1-17), nitrogen (N-15) or fluorine (F-17) plus hydrogen protons, these could interact, in a nuclear rather than merely chemical fashion, and produce beta rays, which in turn decay to emit another nuclear particle, positrons. The relatively long half-life of the oxygen and fluorine isotope nuclei could account for the sustained nature of the ball's emission of energy and the positrons, dissociating surrounding air molecules for the attendant glow.

Credit: Lou Farish for SKYLOOK.

ALLEN HYNEK ATTENDS UFO CONVENTION.

"Either it is completely trivial or it is extremely important, and I wouldn't be spending my time on it if I thought it was trivial", Professor Hynek said at the Midwest UFO Convention last June (1970). He urged others to concentrate on "greater specialization in obtaining hard core data" on the UFO phenomenon. (continued page 4).

In an interview he said, "A growing number of serious scientific people are becoming concerned over the UFO phenomenon".

Hynek maintained that 20% of all reported sightings remain unexplained and that the percentage has persisted since reports began in 1948. (The Herald-Whig, Quincy, Ill., U.S.A. - Credit: Walt Andrus for 'SAUCERS, SPACE & SCIENCE, 17 Shetland St., Willowdale, Ontario, Canada).

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A WORD ABOUT THE WEATHER. (Letter to the Melbourne Herald 2/1/70).

Dear Sir, Will you please publish this letter.

I am fed up like thousands of others with this weather which has in my eyes been interfered with by all these cranky scientists who go to the moon and leave their gear on it.

Now there are all these gas pipes that they are putting underground. I hear that it won't be long before electricity goes underground.

Why can't the world be left alone as God made it? We used to get summertime then. As it is now, we get any weather. And it is affecting my nerves to such an extent I just wonder at each storm I have been in where things will end. And what high rise flat might be the first to be blown down?

Leave us alone and stop being greedy for experimenting. We should have a say as well as scientists.

- (Mrs.) F.C., Windsor.

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"KEEP AN OPEN MIND" ON UFOs, RESTRICTED TEXTBOOK SECTION ADVISES CADETS AT A.F. ACADEMY.

Cadets at the Air Force Academy are being advised to keep an open mind on the subject of unidentified flying objects. The suggestion comes in a 500-page notebook that is restricted to "Academy Use Only". The section on UFOs is a 14-page chapter written by Major Donald G. Carpenter.

Academy officials denied a report that the Air Force had been keeping the textbook secret. They said the book was in short supply because only 200 copies had been printed. The chapter on UFOs noted that such objects had been reported for almost 50,000 years and says, "The entire phenomenon could be psychological, but this is quite doubtful" because of some of the reliable witnesses who have spotted them.

"It could also be due to known and unknown phenomena...but this is also questionable", the book says. "This leaves us with the unpleasant possibility of alien visitors or at least alien-controlled UFOs. However, the data is not well correlated and suggests at least three and maybe four groups of aliens, possibly at different stages of development."

"This too, is difficult to accept: it implies the existence of intelligent life on a majority of planets in our solar system or a surprisingly strong interest in Earth by members of other solar systems." The textbook says, "The best thing to do is to keep an open and skeptical mind." (Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, U.S.A. - Credit: R.F. Scott for SAUCERS, SPACE & SCIENCE, 17 Shetland St., Willowdale, Ont., Canada).

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NEXT GENERAL MEETING will be on Friday August 13th at 8.p.m. in the theatrette, Lower Ground Level, National Mutual Centre, 447 Collins St. Programme will include space & science films. BRING YOUR FRIENDS.

The series of sightings began on April 2 when many people reported seeing a brilliant orange red light travelling above the Macleay River in the western part of the town.

That night, an Aboriginal claims he was sucked out of his kitchen through the top pane of a window by a force he could not resist.

The man was so terrified by the incident, he refused to go back into the house.

He also claims that, before he was drawn out of the room, he saw a small white face pressed against the window..."

UFO OCCUPANTS SEEN NEAR HOSPITAL.

(Reprinted from Canadian UFO Report, Box 758, Duncan, B.C. Canada.)

Miss Doreen Kendall, a practical nurse, and Mrs. Frieda Wilson, a registered nurse, are employed together on the night shift in the extended-care ward for elderly patients at the Cowichan District Hospital at Duncan on Vancouver Island.

Theirs is a position that requires a special degree of tact, maturity and gentleness of manner for it is at night that their patients, often unable to sleep, have long lonely hours in which to contemplate the little that remains for them in life. A word or gesture of comfort from the nurses on duty is all they have in their fading world until the routine of morning helps them into another day.

It is immediately apparent on meeting them that Miss Kendall and Mrs. Wilson, both in late middle-age, were assigned to their particular work with these qualifications in mind. In addition to what training obviously has given them, they have an inborn quality that invites trust, and it was no surprise, after we interviewed them, that friends and former patients of each told us they would accept their word under any circumstance. Coming from several who had doubted the existence of UFOs, this was a significant tribute in light of what the two nurses (with partial confirmation by two others who arrived seconds later) said they observed outside the hospital just as 1970 was dawning on the Pacific Coast.

It was turning five in the morning of January 1 when Miss Kendall, concerned that one of her women patients was restless, switched on a light to attend to her. Deciding the patient was too warm, she went to a window near the bed and parted the drapes to let in a little fresh air.

"Just as I pulled the drapes a brilliant light hit me in the eyes", she said. "It was still dark outside, but about 60 feet away right above the children's ward, there was this object so big and bright I could see everything clearly."

(Immediately to the left of where Miss Kendall was standing, a wing of the hospital juts out at right angles. The children's ward is on the third floor of that wing. With Miss Kendall on the second floor of her wing, this meant the object was hovering above her by slightly more than the height of one storey and a little to her left.)

"The object was circular and had what I guess you would call a top and bottom. The bottom was silvery, like metal, and was shaped like a bowl. There was a string of bright lights around it like a necklace. The top was a dome made of something like glass. It was lit up from inside and I could see right into it."

Continuing her account in question-and-answer form, Miss Kendall said there were two male-like figures in the craft, one behind the other, facing to her right away from the hospital. The one in front appeared taller, or perhaps was positioned higher, than the other. Their heads were encased in close-fitting dark material.

(to be continued)

AUSTRALIAN U.F.O. SYMPOSIUM.

The South Australian Division of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science Inc. is to hold a symposium on U.F.O.s at the University of Adelaide on October 30th 1971.

According to information received from ANZAAS, the symposium is prompted by the need for scientists and laymen alike to be better informed on the U.F.O. subject than they are at present.

Topics to be covered at the symposium will include a statement of reported sightings by a senior member representing U.F.O. societies, a discussion of the various physical phenomena usually described loosely by non specialists in a number of published explanations, and a paper by a recognised scientist who regards the whole problem as real and worthy of serious attention by the scientific community.

Several members of the VUFORS Committee will be attending the symposium and any society member wishing to do so should contact the Secretary for further details.

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GENERAL MEETINGS.

Members are reminded that General Meetings are now held at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month (except January) in The Theatrette, Lower Ground Level, National Mutual Centre, 447 Collins Street, Melb.

The hall accommodation is extremely luxurious, but expensive, and it is hoped that all members will attend meetings as frequently as possible, and bring their friends.

The meeting on August 13th will feature the screening of space and science films of outstanding interest.

The report of the Sightings Investigations Officer should also be of particular interest since a wave of sightings seems to be occurring in certain parts of Australia - although not reported in the national press.

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TAPES OF GENERAL MEETINGS.

Tapes have been made of the last four General Meetings, and will continue to be made of future General Meetings, and these are now in the Library and may be borrowed either by mail or at meetings for a charge of 25 cents per tape. Tapes are listed on the latest VUFORS BOOK AND TAPE LIST. For those members who do not have the latest list, the available tapes to date are as follows:-

TM/1A	4 track stereo	General Meeting	14 March 1971.
TM/1B	2 track mono.	" "	" " "
TM/2A	4 track stereo	" "	14 May 1971.
TM/2B	2 track mono.	" "	" " "
TM/3A	4 track stereo	" "	11 June 1971.
TM/3B	2 track mono.	" "	" " "
TM/4A	4 track stereo	" "	9 July 1971.
TM/4B	2 track mono.	" "	" " "

When ordering tapes check the number of the tape to make sure it suits your machine. The tapes are on 2 - 3" (three inch) tape reels, recorded on the speed of 1 7/8 i.p.s. They are available in 2 track (mono.) or 4 track (stereo). PLEASE CHECK BEFORE ORDERING.

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